

Conrad Savanna Nature Preserve

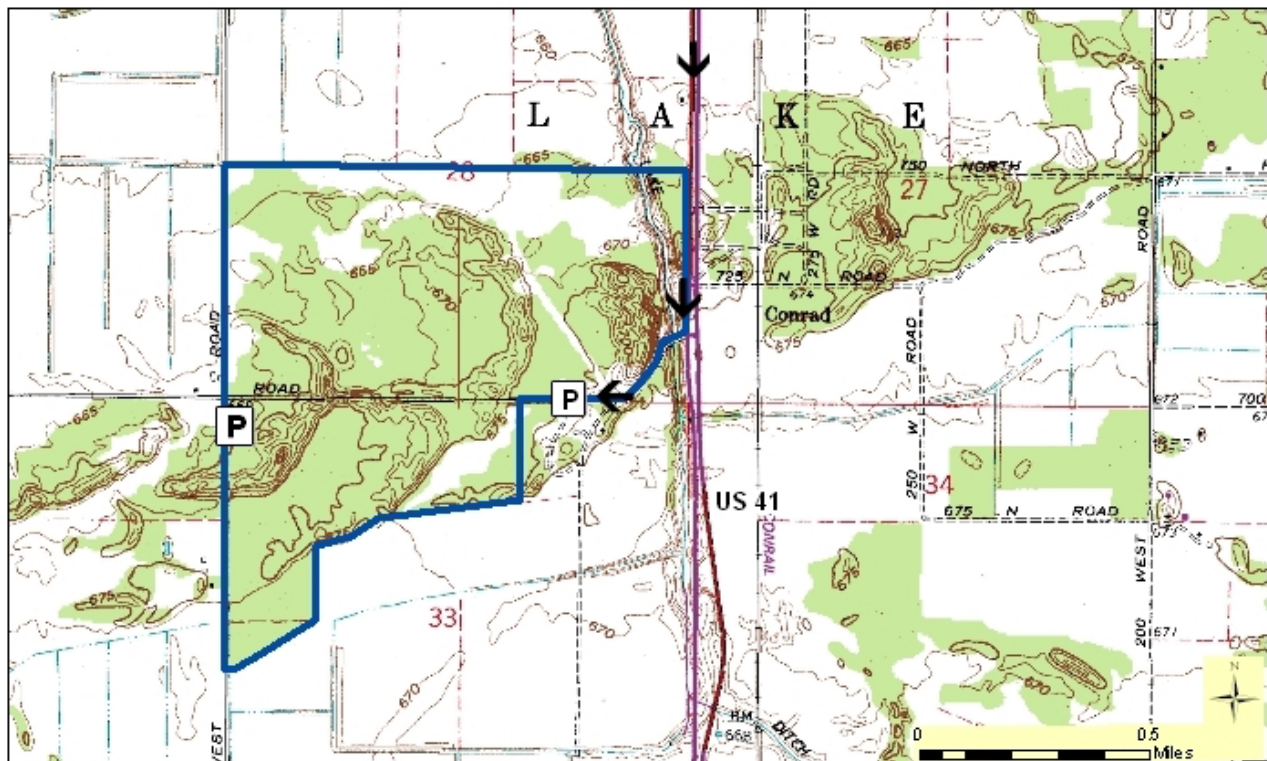
County: Newton Size: 453 acres
Ownership: Nature Preserves - IDNR



Location and Access

Parking. Fire lanes may be used as hiking trails. Fire lanes are flat, easy walking natural surface areas totaling about 1.5 miles in length. **Notices:** The preserve is closed on the day of a prescribed burn. Deer hunting is allowed on the property during the regular firearm season, as well as the muzzle loader season.

See www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/ for more info on the hunting season. From the intersection of SR 10 and US 41 near the town of Lake Village, go south on US 41 for 2 miles and then west on 725N, which turns into CR 700N. The preserve is on both sides of CR 700N. Park at the parking lot north of 700N (If cable gate is closed, park on side of road). Prescribed burning by DNR staff occurs here annually, usually in the spring (Feb-Apr) and occasionally in the fall (Nov).



Description: Conrad Savanna preserves an example of the land forms and associated plant communities that were characteristic of the area south of the Kankakee River at the time of settlement. Fine quartz sand is the common soil in this region (as well as in the nature preserve), and it occurs in both broad flats and rolling hills. Oak savanna is the predominant plant community on these droughty sands, with black and white oaks being by far the most common trees. The trees are somewhat widely spaced, and the understory is sparse. Wildfires were responsible for this open aspect in pre-settlement times, and prescribed fires are used to maintain these areas today. Due to the more open nature of savannas as compared to closed forests, plants with high light requirements thrive here. Many are plants typically associated with dry prairies, and include hairy puccoon, goat's rue, blunt-leaved milkweed, leadplant, and New Jersey tea, as well as grasses such as little bluestem, junegrass, and porcupine grass.

Further information:

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